

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated 3rd September 2020

Is attendance compulsory?

Yes. The Government have been very clear that children must be back in school. Procedures around non-attendance will be in place once again.

How will you ensure safe social distancing?

Most children will spend their days in class-group bubbles. During lessons, breaks and lunches the children will stay together in these consistent groups. The exceptions to this will be in Early Years and in Year 1 where the children will be in year group bubbles.

We know that adults are more likely to spread the virus than children. Staff will observe measures to ensure risks are reduced. When parents, carers and visitors are on the school site we will be encouraging social distancing.

When children are collected at the end of the day we are asking for only one adult to come onto the school site.

Can another parent collect my child at the end of the day?

Yes. Simply let someone in the office know that this will be the case.

Do children have to wear face coverings?

Absolutely not. Please do not send your child into school wearing a face covering.

Will staff be wearing face coverings?

For the vast majority of the time, staff will not be wearing face coverings. There are certain situations such as when delivering first aid when they may do so.

How many children will be in a 'bubble'?

In Years 1 to 6 children will be in class bubbles of up to 30. In Nursery, Reception and Year 1 there will be year group bubbles. In Reception and Year 1 this will mean bubbles of up to 60.

Will teachers or pupils be tested for Covid-19 in school?

No. There are no plans for testing in schools.

How will school meals be provided safely?

Children will stay within their bubbles to eat lunch. Lunch times will be staggered to ensure that we can safely seat the children so that they are not facing each other. Early Years will eat their lunch in our smaller hall and the other children will eat in the large hall.

How will break times be managed?

Break times will also be staggered to ensure that the children remain in their bubbles. Each bubble will have an allocated playground space to use.

Each bubble will have their own small equipment to play with at break and lunch times. There will also be a rota system in place to allow the children to play on the larger equipment. Cleaning of the larger equipment will be scheduled.

Will there be regular handwashing with soap/hand sanitiser?

Yes we will be managing regular handwashing at key points in the day – almost always with liquid soap and water. On entry to the school, children will need to sanitise their hands. Staff will help them with this.

Can I send my child into school with their own hand sanitiser?

No – this will not be necessary. We have large stocks of liquid soap and hand sanitiser.

What should the children bring into school?

The children do not need to bring anything into school apart from a coat, a sun hat, their book bag, a snack if required (free fruit will be provided) and a water bottle. They should also bring a packed lunch if they are not having a school lunch. The packed lunch can be in a small bag if necessary.

Will children change for PE?

We are now asking for children to wear their PE kit to school on PE days. This will avoid extra bags coming into school and will remove difficulties around changing.

When the weather becomes colder can the children wear tracksuits on PE days?

Yes tracksuits are absolutely fine. We would appreciate if tracksuits are plain in design and are not overly bright in colour.

Will breakfast club or extended schools still be offered?

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer breakfast club or extended schools at this time. We hope that we can offer these again soon.

Can I drop my child off earlier than 8:30am or after their collection time?

Unfortunately no. We cannot accommodate any children on site before 8:30am and we cannot look after the children after 3pm/3:15pm.

As soon as we can provide our 'wraparound' care – we will.

Will extra-curricular clubs be available?

Not to begin with. We will hopefully get these up and running later in the term.

My child feels anxious about returning to school after such a long time away. How will they be supported?

We do understand that some children might be feeling a little nervous about returning. We will be providing the children with lots of reassurance and our curriculum will support them with being back at school full time. We have a pastoral team who can provide additional support if necessary. Our staff will give you a call if there are any concerns.

Will online learning continue?

SeeSaw proved a big success over the summer. As a result we plan to continue to use it for some homework moving forward.

If there was a future school closure or partial closure due to the virus, we would go back to using SeeSaw for online learning. This would be blended together with the Oak National Academy learning platform. The Oak National Academy website continues to be free to access.

How will you support children to catch up with the missing months of learning?

We realise that all of our children have missed out on learning in school, and that a large number missed the whole of the summer term and the end of the spring term. Obviously we cannot fill possible gaps overnight but we will be working carefully together to support the children to get back up to speed as soon as possible.

Will there be educational visits?

Whilst they are an important part of school learning, to begin with we will not be organising educational visits. However, the Government have given the green light for day visits so we may plan some local visits later in the term. We will give you more information on this before any visits take place.

Will my child go swimming?

Swimming is an important part of the PE curriculum. We are just finalising arrangements with our swimming provider Hamstel Junior School. If your child was supposed to have swimming sessions in 2019-2020 we will make every effort to ensure that they catch up this year.

How do I get a message to my child's teacher?

We will be setting up year group email accounts for you to contact teachers directly. These email accounts will be in place by the end of the first full week back. Until then please either email or call the school office.

Will there be 'parent's evenings' this autumn?

We do intend to offer learning consultation meetings and these are likely to be held virtually using a platform such as Zoom. More information will follow on this.

What if my child has a cold?

The NHS has said that children displaying mild cold-like symptoms such as sore throats, blocked and runny noses should continue to attend school as these are not coronavirus symptoms. Unfortunately, if a child or adult presents any of the symptoms below we do need to act. Every school has to follow this instruction from the Government.

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Can my child bring sweets into school for a celebration?

Unfortunately no. At the moment we need to limit things coming into school.

I have read things on social media that worry me. What should I do?

Sadly there is a great deal of 'fake news' out there in the public domain at the moment. If you read something on social media and it seems strange or highly unlikely then it may well not be true. At the moment there is a myth going around that schools have the power to 'detain' children if they show symptoms of the virus. That this means we could keep them for 14 days. Of course this is untrue! If a child appears unwell, with symptoms that could be the virus or anything else, we will give you a call and ask you to collect them.

If you are ever worried about something you have read or been told, please call or email the school and we will do our best to put your mind at rest.

This link is very good at debunking some of the current myths out there.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/53919867>